An
Inaugural Dissertation
on
Double Inclined Plane —
Submitted to the Faculty
of the
Homœopathic College
For the degree of Doctor of Medicine
By J. C. Richards M. D.
of Easton, Northampton Co.
Penn a

1866

Double Inclined Plane

Many and various are the apparatuses for treatment of fractures of the femur. But there is none in my humble judgment equal to the above instrument when properly applied. Few of the books; in fact not any give the correct directions for its use, and for this reason this Splint is hardly ever applied. I will mention a case of its Proper; then of its Improper application. Dr. Nott always applied it properly, and his leg was of the same length as the sound one. Another Physician borrowed the same Plane and applied it improperly, and his limb was two inches shorter. He

accused not his ignorance for the bad result, but the plane. When applied right-which is just as easy as wrong you cannot have any other than a good leg of the same length as the opposite, which is the principal object of our treatment to have no shortening. My attention was first called to this while stationed at the U. S. Marine Hospital Mobile Ala. at the time of the explosion from accident we had a number of fractures of all kinds; many of which were of the femur. At the suggestion of my friend Dr. Natt I applied the Plane according to the following directions with a result of a perfect cure in all cases. Place the sound leg in an easy position

say an angle of 45°. Measure from the tuberosity of ischium to the posterior part of knee, (Say for the purpose of illustration) 16 inches. This will be the length of the incline from the tuberosity of the ischium to the knee. From the knee to the extremity of heel 25 inches. Be the length of incline from heel to knee. Add the two inclines together give you the length of horizontal piece, After having set your apparatus according to measurement or not having a sliding plane having made one; you are now to dress the broken limb. Place it in the same position as the sound one was and then put it on the plane.

make extension by the foot board
and counter extension will be
made by the weight of the
patient's body sinking in the
bed. The best material to pad
the plane is a bag 1/4 of inch
in thickness filled with bran
To attain the leg apply a
roller at different points
It is also better to have the
internal tuberosity end cut
round to facilitate the intro-
duction of a bed pan. I could
have written a much longer
Thesis on other subjects; but
knowing that this beautiful
instrument has been misrepre-
sented by Physicians who ought
to know better. I deem it my
duty to say if applied right

it carries out all the indications
and above all places the leg in
an easy position.